Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

3 January 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: December 29, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from southern Sarasota to Collier Counties and in Monroe County, north and west of the Keys. No impacts are expected today through Friday throughout the identified bloom region.

Analysis

This bulletin is being issued on Wednesday instead of Tuesday due to federal government closure yesterday in remembrance former President Gerald R. Ford. The next bulletin will be issued on Friday, January 5, 2007.

A harmful algal bloom persists in patches from southern Sarasota to Collier Counties. Imagery from December 31 indicates chlorophyll levels greater than 10 μg/L south of Cape Romano at and around 25°46'N, 81°40'W. Sampling is recommended. A wind transport model indicates northward alongshore transport of 35 km. Recent satellite imagery has been partially obscured by clouds. Weak northward alongshore transport is possible through Friday.

In the Florida Keys region, chlorophyll levels are elevated offshore to the northwest. Imagery from December 30 indicates chlorophyll levels greater than 10 μg/L at and around 24°52'N, 81°52'W. Sampling is recommended.

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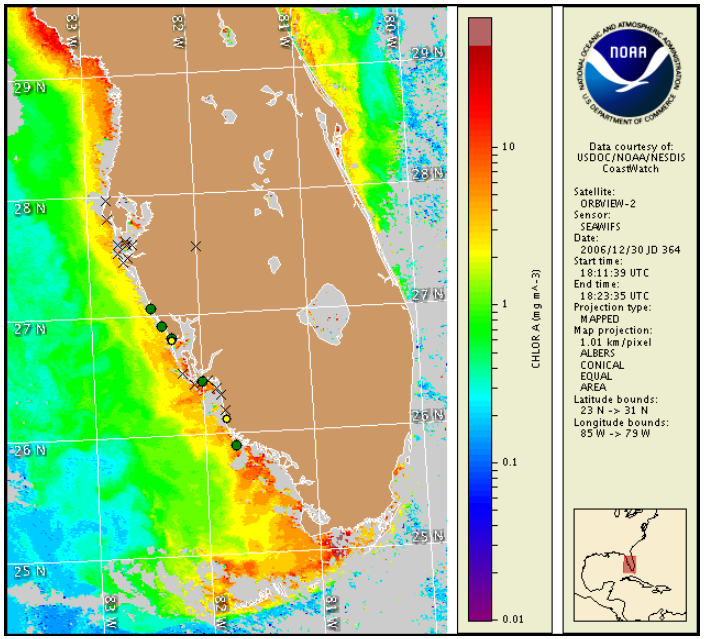
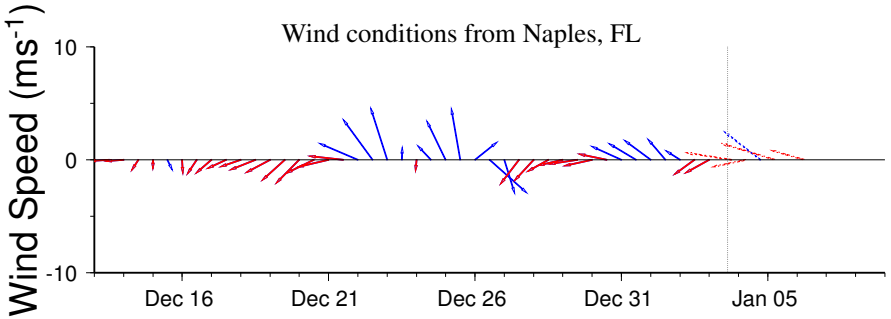


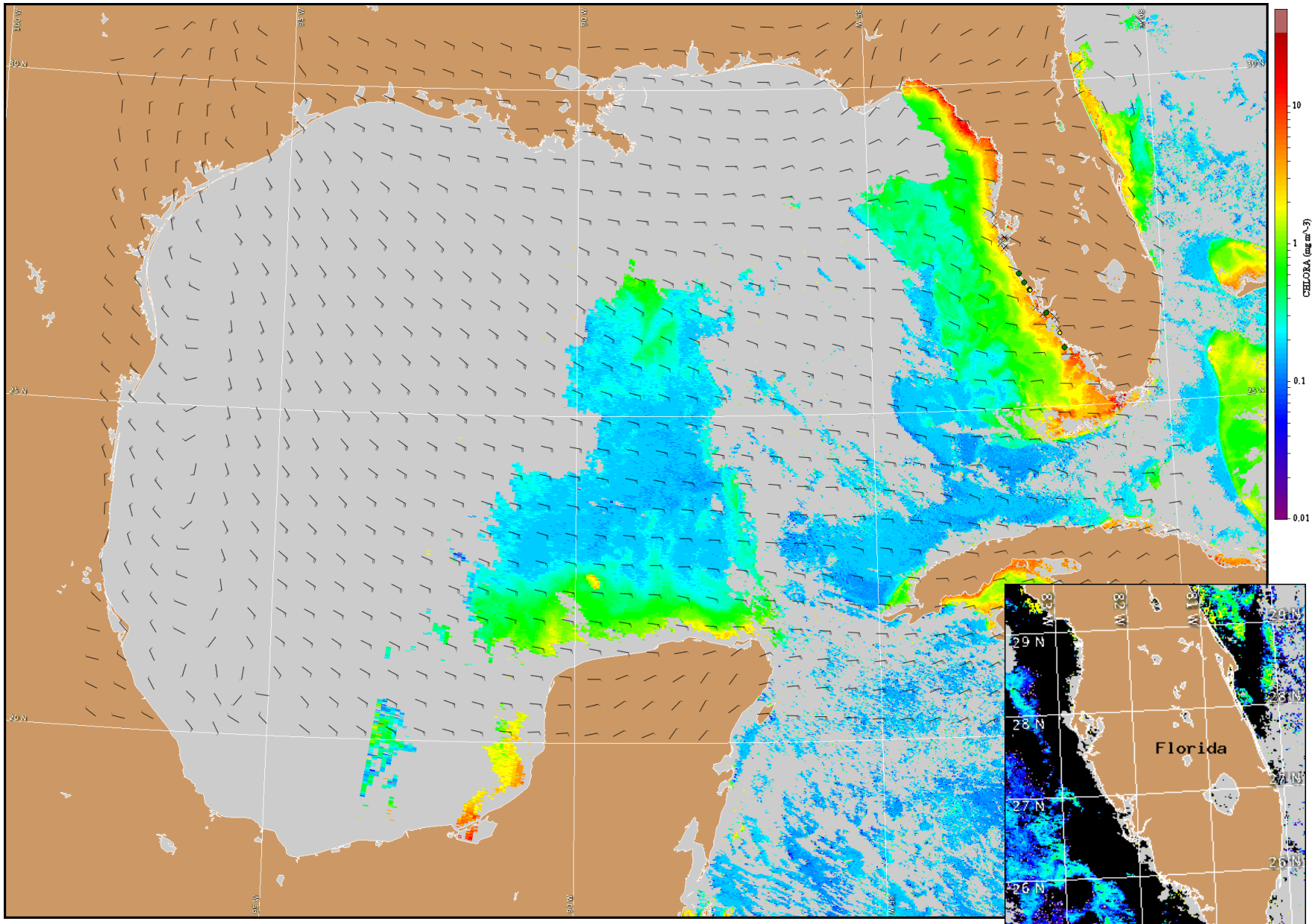
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit http://research.myfwc.com.Cell concentration sampling data from December 24-January 2 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



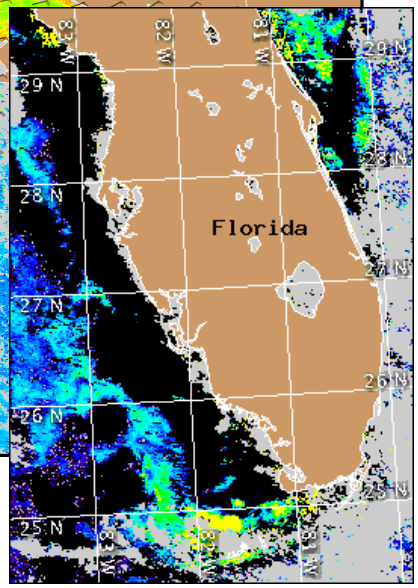
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Winds will be east (15 kts, 8 m/s) today, southeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) tomorrow and Friday.

The Lower Keys: Winds will be east to southeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) today, east (20 kts, 10 m/s) tomorrow, southeast (20 kts, 10 m/s) Friday.

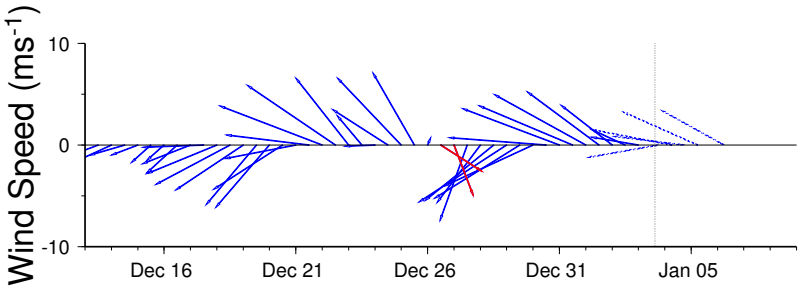


Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for January 4, 2007 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from December 24-January 2 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Sand Key, FL



Wind conditions from Venice Pier, FL